

# PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD

Meeting of Thursday, February 4, 2010

1:15 p.m.

Cabinet Room, Department of Education  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor South Wing, Townsend Building

## MINUTES

**Members Present:** Joanne Christian, Marilyn Dollard, Karen Gordon, Cristy Greaves, Lori Hudson, David Kohan, Jill Lewandowski, Wendy Murray, Gretchen Pikus, Whitney Price, Shelley Rouser, Karen Schilling-Ross, Kathleen Thomas and Juanita Wilson

**Members Absent:** Michael Casson and Samtra Devard

**Others Present:** Charlie Michels, PSB Executive Director; Pearl Carrington, Secretary; Judi Coffield, Policy Analyst for the State Board of Education, Deborah Stevens, DSEA; Diane Donohue, President, DSEA, Cheryl Layfield, Legislative Chair for DSNA, Scott Reihm, DASA, Linda Wolfe, DOE and Dan Cruce, Deputy Secretary, Chief of Staff for DOE.

### I. Opening:

**Call to Order:** Ms. Thomas, Professional Standards Board Chair called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

**Approval of Agenda:** A motion was made by Ms. Lewandowski and seconded by Ms. Gordon to approve the Agenda. The motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Ms. Dollard and seconded by Mr. Kohan to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of January 7, 2010. The motion carried.

### II. Public Comment

Ms. Diane Donohue, President of and representing DSEA, spoke briefly in support of maintaining the BSN certification requirement for School Nurses.

### III. DOE Report

Mr. Cruce, the DOE Deputy Secretary of Education/ Chief of Staff, gave an updated overview/status report of Delaware's Federal Race To The Top Application. The four major components of the application are:

- Standards and assessments
- Accessing and using State data
- Improving Teacher and Principal effectiveness
- Turning around the lowest-achieving schools

Mr. Cruce spoke to the Federal DOE review timelines over the next several months and

promised to continue to follow up with the PSB on the progress of the application and subsequent Federal feedback.

#### IV. Executive Director's Report

- Mr. Michels sent six congratulatory letters to newly certified National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Delaware educators and eight letters sent for NBPTS renewals .
- **Regulation 1505 Standard Certificate:** Mr. Michels met with senior members of the Department [DOE] and Ms. Thomas about Standard Certificate language that was put in place about 4 years ago. The current language allows a district to approve '15 hours of professional development' for certification in certain areas. For the most part this is in lieu of the Praxis II exams for about a half a dozen certification regulations such as Marketing Teacher, Technology Education Teacher, Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher and Health Education Teacher. This also applies in certificated areas with no specific course count or for those applicants from outside the field of education who have attained the student teaching licensure requirement by successfully completing 91 days of long term substitute teaching. Mr. Michels has observed that some districts and charter schools are not really sure what would be appropriate professional development in certain certificated areas. He also has observed that some of the professional development 'approved' by a district or charter school is not relevant to curricular area's approved DE standards. Mr. Michels contends that as these Standard Certificates are issued by the Department, the Department is accountable and should have the ability to have the final say in these approvals. The initial legal review by the Department resulted in the belief that according to the regulation(s), the employing authorities have the final approval. Mr. Michels stated that the PSB might consider amending those regulations by adding language that final approval of these professional development hours falls with the Department. The PSB encouraged Mr. Michels to follow through and pursue this subject.
- **Regulation 1511 Issuance and Renewal of Continuing License:** Mr. Michels reported that as he was updating the *Guideline for the Renewal of a Continuing License Manual* posted on DEEDS and on the PSB website, he found an omission in 1511. The omission in the regulation is for those educators with an expired Delaware Continuing License between zero and three years. Mr. Michels indicated that a proposed solution was in the Members' folders and would be addressed later on the Agenda.
- Mr. Michels stated that he is working with DSEA's *ACTION* Editor on an upcoming article that will describe recently approved changes to regulation 1511. He has two more meetings scheduled with DSEA's Leadership. Mr. Michels also informed the district Personnel Directors and their staff at a recent DOE Office of Teacher and Administrator Quality Development work group quarterly meeting at the Collette Center and during a DOE DESS Advisory Committee. Mr. Michels also edited the Activity Documentation Form posted on DEEDS to reflect recent changes.
- Mr. Michels spoke with Mr. Mike Jackson, DOE's Chief Financial Officer just prior to the PSB meeting and reminded him that last year's Epilogue Language required that the PSB be involved in budgetary discussions at the Department. Mr. Jackson agreed and requested that Mr. Michels set up the meeting for that discussion to happen. Mr. Michels will do that promptly.
- Mr. Michels recently worked with the DOE Career and Technical Education staff at the

Collette Center. At present, there is no Technology Education Education Associate, so on occasion they have asked Mr. Michels to share his expertise in this area. The Department received some Program Applications for both Middle and High schools for the 2010-2011 school year that needed scrutiny. Mr. Michels reviewed these in-depth applications and shared his opinions with the Department's Career and Technical Education staff. The DOE expressed their appreciation for Mr. Michels' time and efforts.

## **V. Action Items**

(None )

## **VI. Discussion**

### **A. 1503 Educator Mentoring**

Mr. Michels stated that he had further conversations with Mr. Cruce of the Department regarding review of the regulation. Mr. Michels shared with the Board a synopsis of changes in regulation 1503 which included the recent addition of employing authority's the opportunity to develop and implement their own mentoring program, as approved by the PSB. Since the January PSB meeting, Mr. Michels had further amended the regulation to make it more concise and less redundant. This recent amendments were met favorably by the Board. Mr. Michels will request a DOE Cabinet review in the next few weeks, and then will work with Ms. Thomas to determine the potential for PSB Approval to Publish in February.

### **B. 1582 School Nurse**

*Public Comment* was made by Ms. Cheryl Layfield, Legislative Chair, Delaware DSNA and the school nurse at Selbyville Middle School. Ms. Layfield commented on her experiences as a BSN accredited School Nurse and advocated to maintain the current BSN requirement for School Nurses.

Mr. Michels stated that more written comments were in Members' folders and that he has done some further research in DEEDS on current School Nurse credentials. This DEEDS information/data had been previously forwarded to Members. A discussion followed, with Ms. Thomas requesting that Members speak to new information they had obtained since the January PSB meeting. Mr. Michels indicated that he had contacted the Directors of the Nursing Programs at Wesley College, Delaware State University and DelTech. The replies he had received from Wesley College and Delaware State University iterated their support of maintain the BSN School Nurse requirement. Mr. Michels said he would contact the District School Chiefs for their opinions. Discussion surrounding the possibility of lowering this educational requirement could set a precedent for other certifications. Mr. Michels indicated that the current certification required a BSN and that if the Board could not attain a quorum on an amended draft of the regulation, the current regulation's requirements still stood. Mr. Michels and Ms. Thomas would consider placing an amended School Nurse regulation as an Action Item on the March 4, 2010 PSB Meeting Agenda.

**C. 1560 Art Teacher**

Mr. Michels reinforced with the Board that this regulation had no certification changes and that the amendments were purely formatting. Mr. Michels had received no written comments on this regulation. The Board had no further concerns.

**D. 1563 Music Teacher**

Mr. Michels reinforced with the Board that this regulation had no certification changes and that the amendments were purely formatting. Mr. Michels had received no written comments on this regulation. The Board had no further concerns.

**E. 1564 Physical Education Teacher**

Mr. Michels reinforced with the Board that this regulation had no certification changes and that the amendments were purely formatting. Mr. Michels had received no written comments on this regulation. The Board had no further concerns.

**F. 1511 Issuance and Renewal of Continuing License**

Mr. Michels shared his rationale for a few amendments to the regulation that needed to be addressed. After a brief discussion of the ramifications of the proposed Delaware expired Continuing license timelines, Mr. Michels shared a few other minor amendments due to the current iteration of the Educator Mentoring regulation draft. The Board's consensus was that the regulation may be ready for a vote to Publish in March after a thorough legal review.

**VII. PSB Standing Committees**

**A. Licensure and Certification Criteria**

The Licensure and Certification Criteria Committee had not met.

**B. Professional Development and Associated Compensation.**

The Professional Development and Associated Compensation Committee had not met.

**VIII. Other**

Several PSB Members shared some diverse final thoughts of the evening regarding the School Nurse regulation.

**IX. Public Comment**

*(None)*

**X. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Ms. Hudson and seconded by Ms. Murray to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:05 P.M.

**During the course of this meeting, the Professional Standards Board may enter into Executive Session to consider strategy with respect to pending and potential litigation or with respect to personnel issues. The Professional Standards Board may also take breaks.**

**The times designated on the agenda are approximate and are listed for administrative purposes only. The Professional Standards Board reserves the right, pursuant to Section 10004(e) of the Freedom of Information Act, to hear any matter out of its order during the meeting.**